

In the Claims

Claims 1 - 23 (canceled)

1 Claim 24 (previously presented): A method of enhancing voice mail messages by incorporating
2 one or more selected background sounds with a voice mail message for playback to a listener,
3 wherein the voice mail message comprises a plurality of message segments, and wherein each of
4 the selected background sounds is associated with one or more of the message segments, further
5 comprising the step of transmitting an address of each of the selected background sounds from a
6 telephone or telephone system used by a speaker of the voice mail message, wherein each address
7 may be used to locate a file containing a respective one of the selected background sounds and
8 wherein each address is a Uniform Resource Locator.

1 Claim 25 (previously presented): A method of enhancing voice mail messages by incorporating
2 one or more selected background sounds with a voice mail message for playback to a listener,
3 wherein:

4 the voice mail message comprises a plurality of message segments;

5 each of the selected background sounds is associated with one or more of the message
6 segments;

7 the one or more selected background sounds are dynamically selected from among a
8 plurality of background sounds that are available to or from a system; and

9 the system is one of (1) a telephone or telephone system from which the voice mail
10 message originates, (2) an apparatus on which the voice mail message is recorded, and (3) a

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11 telephone company system through which the voice mail message passes as the voice mail
12 message is being left for the listener, and further comprising the step of loading one or more new
13 background sounds onto the system, thereby revising the plurality of background sounds that are
14 available.

Claims 26 - 29 (canceled)

1 Claim 30 (previously presented): A method of enhancing voice mail messages by incorporating
2 a selected background sound with a voice mail message for playback to a listener, wherein the
3 incorporating is performed by conferencing the selected background sound into a 3-way call
4 between a speaker of the voice mail message and a receiver thereof.

1 Claim 31 (previously presented): A method of enhancing voice mail messages by incorporating
2 a selected background sound with a voice mail message for playback to a listener, wherein the
3 incorporating is performed during the playback to the listener.

Claims 32 - 37 (canceled)

1 Claim 38 (previously presented): A method of enhancing voice mail messages for playback to a
2 listener, each of the voice mail messages comprising a plurality of message segments, by
3 inserting a plurality of audio files into a particular voice mail message or inserting a single audio
4 file into the particular voice mail message multiple times, wherein at least one of the inserted

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5 audio files is an audio signature associated with a speaker who records the voice mail message,
6 and further comprising the step of playing the audio signature rather than the voice mail message
7 to the listener.

Claims 39 - 63 (canceled)

1 Claim 64 (previously presented): A system for enhancing voice mail messages, comprising:
2 a voice mail message comprising one or more message segments;
3 one or more background sounds that are available on an apparatus;
4 means for incorporating one or more of the background sounds with one or more of the
5 message segments;
6 means for playing the voice mail message to a listener with the incorporated background
7 sounds; and
8 means for loading one or more new background sounds onto the apparatus, thereby
9 revising the plurality of background sounds that are available.

Claim 65 (canceled)

1 Claim 66 (previously presented): A system for enhancing voice mail messages, comprising:
2 a voice mail message comprising one or more message segments;
3 one or more background sounds;
4 means for incorporating one or more of the background sounds with one or more of the

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5 message segments, by conferencing the selected background sounds into a 3-way call between a
6 speaker of the voice mail message and a receiver thereof; and
7 means for playing the voice mail message to a listener with the incorporated background
8 sounds.

Claims 67 - 82 (canceled)

1 Claim 83 (previously presented): A computer program product for enhancing voice mail
2 messages, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media
3 and comprising:
4 computer-readable program code means for selecting one or more background sounds;
5 and
6 computer-readable program code means for incorporating the selected background
7 sounds with a voice mail message for playback to a listener, wherein the computer-readable
8 program code means for incorporating further comprises computer-readable program code means
9 for conferencing the selected background sounds into a 3-way call between a speaker of the voice
10 mail message and a receiver thereof.

Claims 84 - 88 (canceled)

1 Claim 89 (previously presented): A computer program product for enhancing voice mail
2 messages for playback to a listener, the computer program product embodied on one or more

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3 computer-readable media and comprising:

4 computer-readable program code means for incorporating one or more selected
5 background sounds with a voice mail message, wherein the voice mail message comprises a
6 plurality of message segments, and wherein each of the selected background sounds is associated
7 with one or more of the message segments; and

8 computer-readable program code means transmitting an address of each of the selected
9 background sounds from a telephone or telephone system used by a speaker of the voice mail
10 message, wherein each address may be used to locate a file containing a respective one of the
11 selected background sounds and wherein each address is a Uniform Resource Locator.

1 Claim 90 (previously presented): A system for enhancing voice mail messages by incorporating
2 a selected background sound with a voice mail message for playback to a listener, wherein the
3 incorporating is performed during the playback to the listener.

1 Claim 91 (previously presented): A computer program product for enhancing voice mail
2 messages for playback to a listener, each of the voice mail messages comprising a plurality of
3 message segments, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable
4 media and comprising:

5 computer-readable program code means for inserting a plurality of audio files into a
6 particular voice mail message or inserting a single audio file into the particular voice mail
7 message multiple times, wherein at least one of the inserted audio files is an audio signature
8 associated with a speaker who records the voice mail message; and

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9 computer-readable program code means for playing the audio signature, rather than the
10 voice mail message, to the listener.

1 Claim 92 (new): A system for enhancing voice mail messages, comprising:

2 a voice mail message comprising one or more message segments;
3 background sound storing means for storing one or more background sounds; and
4 sound incorporating means for incorporating one or more of the background sounds with
5 one or more of the message segments, by conferencing the selected background sounds into a 3-
6 way call between a speaker of the voice mail message and a receiver thereof, such that the voice
7 mail message can be subsequently played back to a listener with the incorporated background
8 sounds.

1 Claim 93 (new): A method for enhancing voice mail messages for playback to a listener, each of
2 the voice mail messages comprising a plurality of message segments, comprising inserting a
3 plurality of audio files into a particular voice mail message or inserting a single audio file into the
4 particular voice mail message multiple times, wherein at least one of the inserted audio files is an
5 audio signature associated with a speaker who records the voice mail message, such that the
6 audio signature, rather than the voice mail message, can be subsequently played back to the
7 listener.

1 Claim 94 (new): A computer program product, embodied on one or more computer-readable
2 media, for enhancing voice mail messages by incorporating a selected background sound with a

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3 voice mail message for playback to a listener, wherein the incorporating is performed during the
4 playback to the listener

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